

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Hoernlé, Reinhold Freidrich Alfred

1920

+ Hoernlé, Sophie, Mrs. [his mother]

[Dept. of Philosophy

Harvard College

Cambridge, MA]

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↙
and Coernle, Prof. R. F. A.
Coernle, Mr. D. J. C.

January 2, 1920

Prof. R. F. Alfred Hoernle
Dept. of Philosophy
Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 29th at hand, and yesterday I had a chance to talk with Mr. Newell before his departure for Greece.

I have checked up your catalogue with our collection, and we feel that there is enough new material to warrant our purchase of this collection. He has authorized me to go ahead and purchase it ^{at \$825} provided that on seeing it, the condition of the coins warrants our buying this. On this score I think there is no doubt, nevertheless, from a business point of view, I would like to pass on the actual condition of the pieces before making an absolute purchase.

If agreeable to you, we would like to have you send the whole collection on to The American Numismatic Society by express, valued at \$1,000.

Mr. Newell has asked me to take up with you the matter of payment. As he sails for Europe tomorrow (unless the steamer is held up again), he has made no arrangement for an immediate payment, and we would like to know if it would be agreeable to you or your Mother if the bulk of this payment was made on his return after June 1st. In the meantime, we can send you now a cheque for \$100, and possibly another \$100 within a couple of weeks, the balance to be paid on his return.

I beg to remain,

Very truly,

Curator..

The collection contains a total of 2,300 coins, consisting of 1,046 silver, and 1,254 copper coins.

The following are details:-

Ancient India:-

Bactrian 146 (AR 53, AE 93), Indo-Scythian (early and later) 116, Parthian 17, Sassanian 7, Old Hindu (punch-marked, Yaudheya, Mitra, Kuninda, Satraps, Nepal, Andhra, Mālava, Miscellaneous) 217, Saurāshtra 7, Gupta 7.

Mediaeval India:-

Kashmir (old) 62, Rajpūt 38, Chedi 3, Kangra 44, Kabul 24, Vallabhi 3, Nepal (Malla, all silver) 26, Indo-Sassanian 33.

Modern India:-

Nepal (Gurkha) 50, Assam 18, Sikhim 5, Jayantipur 4, Burma 10, Ceylon 19, Tibet 8, Native States (Baroda, Ujain, Indore, Sikh, Jayanagar, Nāhba, Dhār, Udaipur, Bhopāl, Bhont, Jhālāwār, Gwāliyar, Jodhpur, Būndī, Bhartpur, Haiderabad, Bhuj, Ratlam, Isagarh, Dattiya, Pratāpgarh, Junāgarh) 65, European Settlements (Dutch, Danish, Portugese) 13.

Muhammedan:-

Pathans of Delhi 560, Moghuls of Delhi (incl. East India Company) 453, Bengal 86, Jaunpur 57, Gujarāt 24, Bahmani 15, Ghaznavi 23, Mālvā 51, Afghān 27, Persia 12, Central Asia 37, Khalifat 3.

South-India 8. Medals 6.

The collection, though not very large, is a thoroughly representative one, of all classes of coins, and of all dynasties or countries of India, from the earliest to modern times.

Particularly noteworthy is the collection of ⁶87 Bengal coins, probably the largest, next to that of the British Museum and the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The "Old Hindu" collection is also very good, especially in the very rare ancient Mālāva and Nepalese copper coins. The former are not mentioned in Sir A. Cunningham's work on Coins of Ancient India. The Chedi, Chandel and Nepal coins of Mediaeval India, also, are very rare.

There are a very large number of coins of varying rarity; thus roughly RR 245, RRR 73 (~~e.g., one gold Muizzuddin, Brit. Mus. Cat., No. 6~~), RRRR 17 (one square copper Zoilus, Brit. Mus. Cat., p. 9, 170, one copper Abdagases with Bactrian script running from left to right, ~~one gold Sikandar bin Ilyas of Bengal, not in Brit. Mus. Cat.~~).

~~one gold Rafiuddarjāt without couplet, noted as unique in Lahore Mus. Cat., one copper~~
 Masūd of Ghazni, two copper Qutbuddīn of Gujarāt, and several "Old Hindu"), unique
 3 (viz., one copper Azes, one square silver Malla of Nepal, ~~one gold Jalāluddīn Fatch~~
~~of Bengal~~). The R's are not counted, nor such as are rare or unique on the mere
 score of mint or date. There are about 150 which do not exist in the British Museum
 collection or elsewhere, so far as the latest printed catalogues show.

Nearly all items are single coins. There are only about 10 per cent where
 an item consists of more than one coin showing mere differences of die. There are no
 more than about half a dozen duplicates.

In a very large number of cases, the place and date of finding are noted.
 There are no forgeries or doubtful coins, excepting one silver zodiacal imitation
 of Jehāngīr, added as a curiosity.

There is a complete manuscript catalogue, giving information on the follow-
 ing points: 1, number of coins, 2, metal, 3, shape, 4, size, 5, weight, 6, rarity,
 7, description, 4, references to catalogues (of the British Museum, etc.,) and
 numismatic publications (Chronicles of Pathan Kings, etc.)

Supplementary Notes:

1. The above short description of my father's Collection was drawn up by him about
 20 years ago, and the references to catalogues, and to coins not existing in other
 collections, are not, therefore, likely to be in all respects up-to-date.
2. The Collection contained originally also 153 gold coins which were sold separately
 in 1898 to the private collection of an Indian Prince. The statement about the
 "thoroughly representative" character of the Collection requires to be modified
 by deduction of these gold-coins. It should be noted, however, that some of the
 greatest rarities are among the copper coins.
3. The Collection is being brought over from England, and is expected to be available
 for inspection (together with the complete manuscript catalogue) about the end of
 May.

R.F. Alfred Hoernle'

Department of Philosophy

Harvard University

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
AND PSYCHOLOGY

*Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

January 5, 1920

My dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter of January the second, saying that Mr. Newell has authorized you to purchase my father's coin collection at \$825, subject to your being satisfied on personal inspection of the whole collection that the coins are in good condition. This condition seems entirely reasonable to my mother and myself, and we have no hesitation in agreeing to it.

I fear there will have to be a delay of a week or ten days before dispatching the collection to you, because my mother is temporarily laid up with a slight attack of bronchitis, and she wishes to go over the whole collection and see that it is in order before sending it to you. We shall send the collection in accordance with your instructions by express, valued at \$1000.

As regards payment, Mr. Newell's proposal to pay \$100 or \$200 now and the balance upon his return from Greece in June is, I fear, very inconvenient to my mother. She expects to have to return to England about the end of February, in order to sell her house there and wind up her affairs. She had counted on using the money realized from the sale of the collection for her travelling expenses. In addition, as you know, the rate of exchange between ^{The} United States and England is at the moment very much in favor of the United States, but

if it were to move in the opposite direction between now and June, as it is quite likely to do, the loss on the exchange involved for my mother might be quite appreciable. This being so, I trust that you have authority to make arrangements for the payment of the whole purchase price not later than the end of February. Please let me know about this without delay, for a decision adverse to our wishes might affect our readiness to complete the sale.

Yours truly,

R. F. Alfred Hoernle

Mr. Howland Wood
American Numismatic Society

January 7, 1920

Prof. R. F. A. Hoernle
Dept. of Philosophy
Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hoernle:

Your letter of January 5th just at hand.

There is no need for any immediate hurry for sending the collection on, as I will be more than busy for the next week.. Of course, the sooner it is sent on, the sooner a decision can be made.

I appreciate the inconvenience to your Mother with delayed payments. I, however, can do better than what I proposed in my first letter, because at the last moment Mr. Newell placed in my hands some additional funds for other payments as well as for this, and by temporarily "robbing Peter to pay Paul", I will be able to pay you \$600 before the end of February, \$250 of \$350 of which I can pay this month, and the balance before the end of February, leaving either \$225 or \$125, though I will try to bring it down to \$125, that may have to be deferred until Mr. Newell's return.

I trust that this new arrangement will be satisfactory, and that the balance due of \$100 or so will not seriously hamper your Mother.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
AND PSYCHOLOGY

*Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

January 9, 1920

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for your letter of January the seventh. My mother has decided to accept the offer which you make in this letter, namely, if you are satisfied with the collection, to pay from \$250 to \$350 this month, and an equal sum in February, leaving the balance of the purchase money to be paid on Mr. Newell's return. I trust that you will be able to arrange that this balance does not greatly exceed \$100.

I am glad to say that my mother is getting better, and I hope to be able to send you the collection before the end of next week.

Yours very truly,

R. F. Alfred Hoernle

Mr. Howland Wood
The American Numismatic Society

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
AND PSYCHOLOGY

*Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

January 23, 1920

Dear Mr. Wood:

The coin collection has been packed up and will be dispatched to you to-day or to-morrow insured for one thousand (\$1000) dollars. I shall be glad if you will let me know, as soon as you have gone over it, and assured yourself of the condition of the coins, whether you are satisfied with your purchase. In that case please arrange for payment according to the terms agreed upon between us, viz.: "\$250 to \$350 this month and an equal sum in February, leaving the balance to be paid on Mr. Newell's return in June".

My mother has gone over the whole collection, but she tells me that she was hampered occasionally by not having the catalogues at hand which we had sent to you. She also found that some of the coins in the topmost tray had been disturbed by the custom house authorities in the course of their inspection. My mother was not personally present at the inspection, her luggage having missed the steamer by which she travelled, owing to the railroad strike in England in September. The coins are all there, but a few of them (some twenty or twenty-five in all) appear to have been taken out of their paper bags and, in the absence of expert advice, my mother found herself unable to identify which coins belongs to which bags. Judging from the empty bags, the loose coins

include some fifteen akbar coins and some pathans. If you cannot identify them yourself, no doubt you know of some scholar in New York who can assist you in the matter.

In addition to the collection proper we are sending you, in separate parcels, the hundred and twenty-five unclassified coins from Nepal and Eastern Turkestan, which, as I wrote in a previous letter, we desire to sell with the collection, and which are included in the purchase price of eight hundred and twenty-five (\$825) Dollars agreed upon between us.

If there are any questions that you wish to ask after inspecting the collection, I shall be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

R. F. Alfred Hoernlé

Mr. Howland Wood

February 2, 1920

Prof. R. F. A. Hoernle
Dept. of Philosophy
Emerson Hall
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

As I wrote you the other day, the package of coins came to hand, and although the average condition is not quite up to what I had been expecting, especially in the copper series, I am nevertheless sufficiently satisfied to take the collection.

I find, however, quite a number missing. This is a whole group- the last of the Pathan series, beginning with Sher Shah and including Islam Shah and Mohamet Adil Shah. Not a one of these coins numbering twenty-seven silver, and eighty-three copper, do I find. Could these by any chance have been overlooked? I would very much hate to lose these, as it cuts the Pathan series off sharply with the last three Emperors.

I remain,

Very truly,

Curator.

February 7, 1920

Mr. R. F. A. Hoernle
Dept. of Philosophy
Emerson Hall, Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hoernle:

I was hoping to hear from you before this concerning the missing pieces I wrote you about the other day.

I have completed looking over the collection and checking it up, and I am sending you \$350 on account. Please send us a receipt for this money, so that I can hand it to Mr. Newell on his return. I will have ready following the 15th of this month \$250 more which I will send you.

Very truly,

Curator.

(Enclosure)

2 Shady Hill Sq.
Cambridge, Mass
Febr. 6th 1920.

Holland Wood Esq.

Curator

American Numismatic Society.

New York

Dear Sir

My son handed me your letter of Febr. 2^d for reply as he personally has had nothing to do with the collection of which I have had sole charge.

I am very much concerned to learn that the Coins of the last three Pothan Emperors have not been found. The Pothan coins were placed both in the middle trays of the box and in one compartment of the bottom drawer. The latter could not have been overlooked by any chance.

As you were told in one of my son's earlier letters, a part of the collection had been in my son's possession for 10 years & was entrusted to have been dealt with by an expert. The latter letter was never received & no body to help me when my son's death occurred. I have kept the collection in the same condition since.

that the contents of the box had been a good deal disturbed
to supply the show cases, but I succeeded in checking
most of the coins with the help of the Catalogues
except the loose coins & empty bags which I carefully
preserved. Some errors on my part are very likely but
I do not think I would have overlooked the absence of
a whole series, without marking them in the Catalogue
as 'not found'. My error suggested that I should ask
you to return the Catalogues for a final checking up
of the Collection before dispatching it to you but I
say now, that I did not take his advice. I would
now have sent the collection but I discovered the
absence of the 'Flemish' coins, but I felt quite sure
that all the coins were right. As it is, it is a
mystery to me, that the coins cannot be traced.

However in the circumstances it is only fair, that
you should have the option of cancelling our trans-
action & return the Collection to me. I should
be distressed to think that you have serious rea-
sons to be ^{dis}satisfied with it.

I presume two parcels of coins, not belonging to the
catalogue collection which were placed on the top of
the box have been found.

I am, dear Sir,
yours truly
Joseph Roach

February 9, 1920

Mrs. A. F. R. Hoernle
2 Shady Hill Square
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Hoernle:

Your letter just at hand, and I am sorry to have given you any needless concern. Although we are sorry not to have found the coins of the last three Parthian Emperors, I feel that the absence of these would not prevent our purchasing the collection.

The other day I sent to your son cheques for \$350, as per agreement, for the first payment. Possibly you might feel like calling the total value of the collection \$800, and if you should later discover anywhere the missing coins, we could make the collection at the first price, namely, \$825. I do not make this as an offer- simply a suggestion, as I am simply acting as agent for Mr. Newell.

I wrote you that these pieces were missing, hoping that they might have been mislaid. In the catalogue there was no blue pencil mark against these three later rulers. How significant this is, I do not know, because I have found a number of coins that have not been checked thus, and have found some few coins missing that did have this check. Also a few of the coins you had marked in ink "not found", I did find.

The two parcels of coins not in the tin box we found all right.

Trusting that these missing pieces will turn up, and that you will not needlessly concern yourself, I beg to remain,

Very truly,

Curator.

2 Shady Hill Sq.
Cambridge Mass.
Febr. 13. 1920.

Mr. Howland Good
Curator of the American Numismatic Society.

Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter of Feb. 9th which arrived this morning out of its predecessor dat. Feb. 7th addressed to my son & enclosing cheques for \$350 in part payment of the collection. I enclose a formal receipt for the same.

I am greatly concerned, that the missing Palham Coins have not been found in the bottom tray as I hoped they would be and of course I am quite willing to call the value of the collection \$800 as you suggest in view of their missing. I can only hope, that the uncatalogued coins, which was not included in the Collection will in some way make up to you for the disappointment, which I am fully entitled to.

I shall certainly make a thorough search
in Oxford on my return but I have peculiar hopes
of finding my man there. My husband
was far too intelligent and accurate in all
his dealings to let me believe it

I am dear Sir,

Yours truly
Sophia Howard

February 13, 1920

Mrs. A. F. Rudolph Hoernle
2 Shady Hill Square
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Hoernle:

Your favor at hand, enclosing receipt for the first payment on the Oriental coin collection. I will see that you get a second payment before the 20th of this month. The balance, \$200, as per our understanding, will be paid on Mr. Newell's return from Greece some time after June 1st, unless he takes care of this before then.

I am myself planning to go to England about the middle of April for a few months.

I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Curator.

February 19, 1920

Mrs. Sophie Koernle
2 Shady Hill Square
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Koernle:

I am sending you herewith cheque for \$250, being the second payment on the coin collection.

Kindly send me a receipt for this, and believe me,

Very truly,

Curator.

(Enclosure)

2 Shady Hill Sq.
Cambridge, Mass
Febr. 22. 1920.

Howland Wood Esq.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the
receipt of your Cheque for
\$250, the recent payment on
the Coin Collection. The balance

\$200 to be paid on Mr. Hull's
return from Europe in June,
or earlier, according to his con-
venience).

Sophie Haevel's

2 Shady Hill Sq.
Cambridge, Mass
Febr. 22. 1920

Dear Sir,

Enclose a formal receipt
for the second payment of
\$250 for the coin-collection.

As I expect to return to England
about the middle of June,
may I ask, that after that

date any communication to
me may be addressed to
my bankers

Messrs Barclay & Cie

Bankers R^d

Parford

England.

I hope you will have a
pleasant trip to England and

an enjoyable stay there; starting
as you propose about the middle
of April, you will just be in
time for the English Spring
the most lovely season of the
year.

Yours truly
Sophie Hoernlé.

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JH.